GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1987
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
COMMITTEE TO AMALGAMATE COFFEE RUBBER AND SPICES BOARDS
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR;SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed any Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.P. Prabhu to amalgamate Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Committee;

(e) the details of recommendations out of them accepted by the Government;

(f) the action taken by the Government to revamp the functioning of these boards on the basis of recommendations; and

(g) the details of the performance of the Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board during the last three years separately?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (f) : No, Sir. The Government had appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri P.P. Prabhu to study the functioning of Tea Board, Rubber Board, Spices Board, Coffee Board, Marine Products Export Development Authority and the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government. The recommendations include rationalization and reformulation of existing schemes, promotion of interest of the small growers, reduction in membership and manpower of the Boards, enhancing of financial powers, strengthening of research activities with periodical evaluation, privatization of domestic sales outlets, closing of Tea Board`s foreign offices, withdrawing from control activities etc. The Committee has also suggested introduction of a Price Insurance Scheme for some commodities and a Price Stabilization Fund to benefit the growers. These recommendations are being examined in consultation with the Commodity Boards.

(g) : The details of performance of Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board during the last three years are as under:-

COFFEE:-

Year	Production (in lakh tonnes)	Exports (in lakh tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha)
1997-98	2.28	1.79	799
1998-99	2.65	2.12	877
1999-2000	2.92	2.45	947

RUBBER:-

Year	Production (in tonnes)	Exports (in lakh tonnes)	Productivity (kg/ha)

1997-98	5.84	1415	1549
1998-99	6.05	1840	1563
1999-2000	6.22	5989	1576

MAJOR SPICES:-

Major Spices	Export (in Rs. crores)			Productivity (in kg per hect)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Turmeric	83.06	124.55	104.60	3931	3721	4052
Pepper	496.36	638.11	864.97	316	316	303
Coriander	64.35	45.89	25.84	514	556	578
Garlic	7.97	7.41	9.38	4452	4632	4169
Cardamom	25.31	37.12	43.11	123	106	128
Chilies	158.90	216.61	233.94	1035	1171	1112